

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 03046 140549Z
ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SYE-00 /006 W
-----005309 140553Z /17
P 140529Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 451
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY
AMCONSUL HONG KONG PRIORITY

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SY CHANNEL

DEPT FOR A/SY/OPS; HONG KONG AND BANGKOK FOR RSS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ASEC
SUBJ: DEMONSTRATIONS - SEOUL

1. POLITICAL ASPECTS OF DEMONSTRATION REPORTED BY SEPARATE TELEGRAM.
2. AT APPROXIMATELY 0900 LOCAL TIME ABOUT 80 KOREAN MALES APPEARED AT THE FRONT GATE OF THE CHANCERY COMPOUND IN A TOURIST BUS. OBVIOUSLY WELL ORGANIZED, THIS GROUP CAME OUT OF THE BUS WITH SUCH SPEED THAT THE LOCAL GUARD POSITIONED AT THE FRONT GATE WAS UNABLE TO DETER THE GROUP'S PENETRATION OF THE COMPOUND.
3. SUBSEQUENTLY, POSSIBLY 30 SECONDS LATER, GHE GROUP OF 60 ENTERED THE LOBBY OF THE CHANCERY EN MASSE. MEMBERS OF THE GROUP CARRIED BOTH KOREAN AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE PLACARDS ONE OF WHICH SAID "BLOOD-SHED ALLY UNITED STATES SHOULD RESPECT KOREAN SOVEREIGNTY."

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4. AS THE GROUP ENTERED THE CHANCERY LOBBY THE MARINE GUARD ACTIVATED THE ELEVATOR OVERRIDE TO PRECLUDE THE GROUP FROM RISING ABOVE THE FIRST FLOOR. RSO AND MARINE GUARDS ATTEMPTED TO CONTROL GROUP IN CHANCERY LOBBY UNTIL ARRIVAL OF RIOT POLICE. RSO REQUESTED RIOT POLICE ON BASIS THAT GROUP WAS VIOLENT AND NON-PEACEFUL. THE GROUP WAS IN THE CHANCERY LOBBY ABOUT TEN MINUTES UNTIL PHYSICALLY

REMOVED BY RIOT POLICE.

5. SUBSEQUENT TO BEING REMOVED FROM THE CHANCERY, ABOUT 60 MEMBERS OF THE GROUP WERE ARRESTED AND PLACED UNDER DETENTION.

6. PRIOR TO DEMONSTRATION RSO HAD BEEN INFORMED BY KOREAN POLICE THAT NO DEMONSTRATIONS WERE PLANNED DURING MORNING.

7. INCIDENT HAS BEEN CRITIQUED WITH MARINE SECURITY GUARDS AND APPROPRIATE MEASURES ARE BEING TAKEN TO PRECLUDE A RECURRENCE OF THIS TYPE OF INCIDENT. CONTRACT GUARD MANPOWER IS BEING INCREASED WITHIN THE CHANCERY COMPOUND AND MEASURES ARE BEING TAKEN TO ENSURE THE MARINE GUARD CAN LOCK THE FRONT ENTRANCE IN A MATTER OF SECONDS.

8. AS THIS CABLE IS BEING PREPARED, RSO HAS BEEN INFORMED THAT OTHER GROUPS WILL VISIT EMBASSY THIS AFTERNOON.
SNEIDER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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